

Decatur. While still but a lad, in 1776, he was captured by the British, and confined for seven months on the prison ship "Jersey."

After serving in local office for some time, Mr. Stokes was elected to the U. S. senate from North Carolina, his adopted State, but declined to serve. Again, in 1816, he was chosen, and served a full term. In 1830 he was elected governor. He resigned this high office to act as Indian agent in Arkansas under President Jackson. He died there September 17, 1842, and is buried at Fort Gibson. Governor Stokes was twice married, first to Mary, daughter of Colonel Henry Irvin, who was killed at the battle of Germantown, Pa.

The National Cyclopedia of American Biography (vol. iv, page 424) says of him: "Governor Stokes was a man of rare genius, of the highest courage, but marred by being 'sudden and quick in quarrel.' By reason of his hot temper he became involved in an altercation with Colonel Jesse D. Pearson, equally hot tempered. A duel followed and General Stokes received a wound, the effect of which he carried to his grave." This duel took place at "Mason's Old Field," near Salisbury. Pearson was a brother-in-law of Judge John Stokes.

The old Governor Stokes place was in Wilkes county, and was called *Morne Rouge* (Red Hill).

Colonel Montfort Sydney Stokes was a son of Governor Stokes by his second marriage to Rachel, daughter of Hugh Montgomery of England and Catharine Sloan of Georgia, and served as major in the Mexican war, and was presented with a handsome sword by his regiment. He was later a councillor of state, and finally colonel of the First North Carolina Regiment, C. S. A. A friend of his writes me: "I knew Colonel Stokes well \* \* \* ; a more gallant man never went into battle. Colonel Stokes was mortally wounded at Elyson Mill, in Virginia. Betts' "North Carolina in the Confederacy," has a picture of the colonel that is an almost perfect likeness of the late Congressman, Dr. J. William Stokes.